

Message

From: Salemi, Charles (DPH) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MASSMAIL-01/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CHARLES.SALEMI]
Sent: 8/21/2012 6:13:17 PM
To: Gagnon, Kenneth (POL) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=Kenneth.gagnon090]
CC: Corbett, Kate (DPH) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MassMail-01/cn=Recipients/cn=Kate.Corbett]
Subject: RE [REDACTED]

Kenny, Kate sent me this email below. It seems that during the rerun of ASD's questionable crack sample, a transcription error was made. Kate reran the sample last night and it was negative for cocaine. We will need to discuss how we want to proceed the next time you're here. Chuck S

From: Corbett, Kate (DPH)
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 1:51 PM
To: Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Cc: Corbett, Kate (DPH)
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi Chuck,

I received [REDACTED] to be re-tested from Boston. The original testing was done by ASD (who was the primary) and confirmed by me on 3/7/11. The results were reported as cocaine. 2 pbs were received and 1 was analyzed. On 8/16/12, I opened the pb that was originally analyzed. I weighed it (by difference), then did spot tests. I could not get any spots, even with the addition of acid. I tried the cobalt test 3x and got the same result. I also tried to get crystals and was unable to get those too. I then alerted you to the problem and you had said to run the sample on the GC/MS. I prepared a vial and ran it on the screen method. I had added to the end of a run that was already going. I did not realize it when I originally showed you the GC/MS but I had forgotten to change the vial # so the machine picked up the cocaine std and not the vial I had prepared. I did not catch my mistake until 8/21/12. On 8/17/12, you and I both tried to get crystals using the sample that had been run on the GC/MS and could not get any. On 8/20/12, I reopened the sample in front of both you and Kenny, and we did spot tests (which did not give us a + cobalt) and I prepared another vial to be run on the GC/MS. I re-ran the original vial I had prepared [REDACTED] and the new vial [REDACTED] on the drugs method with a cocaine std. The GC/MS was negative for both. That was when I went back and looked at what I had run on the screen method originally. I pulled the batch sheet and noticed that I had not changed the vial # and that is why we had gotten a + cocaine peak.

Let me know what we should do next.

Kate Corbett
Chemist II
Drug Analysis Lab
305 South St.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
phone (617) 983-6632
fax (617) 983-6625